

Appln No. 10/767,875
Amdt date January 13, 2006
Reply to Office action of August 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Rejection dated August 15, 2005, the examiner rejected pending claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Yoshida, et al., "Degradation mechanism of alkyl carbonate solvents used in lithium-ion cells during initial charging," in view of Thomas, "Electrochemical insertion of sodium into hard carbons." However, applicants have amended independent claim 10 and drafted new claim 12 to recite that the rechargeable lithium battery comprises a negative electrode comprising a negative active material and an aqueous binder, the aqueous binder comprising a butadiene-based rubber and a cellulose-based compound. Neither Yoshida nor Thomas teach or suggest such a feature. Accordingly, claim 10, as amended, and new claim 12 are allowable over Yoshida and Thomas.

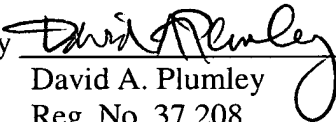
The examiner also rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Igarashi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,573,004). However, Igarashi also fails to teach or suggest that the rechargeable lithium battery comprises a negative electrode comprising a negative active material and an aqueous binder, the aqueous binder comprising a butadiene-based rubber and a cellulose-based compound. Rather, Igarashi teaches the use of a polyvinyl alcohol binder. Accordingly, claim 10, as amended, and new claim 12 are allowable over Igarashi.

Claims 10 and 12 now remain pending in this application. Applicants have canceled claims 1-9, amended claim 10 and added new claim 12. Claim 11 was canceled in a previous amendment. In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that pending claims 10 and 12 are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request a

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timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can best be addressed by telephone, applicants ask the examiner to contact applicants' counsel at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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